to liberalization are apprehensions of lack of job security for workers, exploitation of labour and unscientific exploitation of coal with inadequate safety measures in coal mining in private hand.

(d) to (f) The Central Government has taken decisions (i) to allow Indian Companies to mine coal lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption and (ii) to engage the Indian Companies in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country, subject to legislative changes. In order to implement the decision the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is required to be amended. Therefore the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 have been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2000.

VRS In Coal Companies

4265. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the coal companies that have introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes during the last three years;

(b) the number of employees in various coal companies who have taken voluntary retirement in these years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) During the last three years all the coal producing companies which are subsidiaries of Coal India Limited have introduced Voluntary Retirement Schemes.

(b) and (c) During last three years a total number of 29,733 employees have availed of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. The company-wise details of the number of employees separated under VRS are given hereunder:

Company	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	Total for three years
1	2	3	4	5
Eastern Coalfields Limited	4,880	4,406	2,496	11,782
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	4,088	3,590	2,496	10,174
Central Coalfields Limited	504	1,820	1,046	3,370

1	2	3	4	5
Western Coalfields Limited	760	1,650	958	3,368
South-Eastern Coalfields Limited	5	22	793	820
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	0	0	37	37
Northern Coalfields Limited	2	3	1	6
North-Eastern Coalfields Limited	0	116	26	142
Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited	1	15	0	16
Coal India Limited (Head Quarter)	5	12	1	18
TOTAL	10,245	11,634	7,854	29,733

Low conviction rate in hit-and-run road accidents in Delhi

4266. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that conviction rate in cases of hit-and-run road accidents in Delhi is very poor, almost negligible;

(b) if so, in how many cases of hit-and-run road accidents in Delhi in 1999 the offenders were convicted as against the total reported cases;

(c) whether Government think that the poor rate of convictions in hit-and-run road accident cases is due to flaws in the investigations; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government to bring about improvements in the investigation system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Out of 3646 such cases reported in the year 1999, 1105 cases were challaned after investigation, of which 24 cases were decided in the courts. 23 of these cases resulted in conviction and only one case resulted in acquittal.